

Memo



Metro

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Date: April 9, 2019
To: Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and interested parties
From: John Mermin, Senior Transportation Planner
CC: Margi Bradway, Deputy Director
Subject: Regional Framework for Highway Jurisdictional Transfer

Background

This project provides Metro with an opportunity to help facilitate a conversation between the state and local partners to address a long-standing issue identified in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) since 2010. Metro Deputy Planning Director, Margi Bradway, briefed JPACT on this project in July 2018 as part of discussions of the RTP Implementation Chapter (Chapter 8 of the 2018 RTP). ODOT is a key partner of this study.

A Jurisdictional Transfer Assessment was identified in the RTP as a necessary step to help our region meet its equity, safety and multi-modal goals. In the Metro region, ownership patterns of streets, roads and highways reflect historical patterns but do not necessarily reflect current transportation uses, land use and development patterns. The history of roadway provides an important context for decision-making. Sometimes called an “orphan highway” these arterials were originally constructed by the State of Oregon as a rural or farm-to-market roadway. But as city limits expanded, many of these roads became surrounded by an increasingly dense urban environment. These changes in the character of the roadway may warrant a change in ownership.

The purpose of the project is to identify which state-owned routes in the Portland metro region should be evaluated and considered for jurisdictional transfer. As part of this process, we will identify gaps and deficiencies on these routes, develop a cost methodology for assess costs need for transfer, identify barriers and opportunities for transfer from state ownership to local ownership, and most importantly, prioritize the routes regionally.

The process will provide an opportunity to address issues related to classifications, cost estimates and mechanisms for transfer. However, it does not commit funds or commit a jurisdiction to transfer.

Next Steps

Working closely with ODOT, Metro is kicking off the Jurisdictional Transfer Assessment process in spring of 2019 and the work will continue throughout 2020. Metro staff is in the process of hiring a consultant to help with the technical work. Staff will be bringing back deliverables to TPAC and JPACT at key decision points throughout the year and next year.